

Nick's Blog – Aussies Open Day 4

SKI GODS! 1-2-3!

Unbelievable.

OK that's out of the way. For now anyway. That was how the day ended. This penultimate Aussies day, short and sweet, as the wind slowly swung toward a classic south-east trade off the Coral Sea, bent by the high pressure centred to our south. The world turning its southern face away from the Sun.

That's why Friday started cool: "Like a Perth morning," as Charlie Brooks described it.

I watched the open teams do their board race semis, and wandered down to 17s-world.

The under 17s tent is a fascinating place. I had a visit from a friend a coupla days ago: Dr Rebecca Olive from the University of Queensland, who among other things, lectures in gender studies. I nearly suggested to Dr Olive that she study this scene. What would a gender studies researcher make of the under 17s tent??

Jake Morris was there, fresh back from his team's gold in the taplin. It'd been Jake on board, brother Mitch swimming, and Bailey Clues on the ski. Jake is an open book of a person, essentially happy, but with a clear eye for what happens in racing. How had he felt in that second taplin leg, going around against a former Newport team-mate, now Maroochydhore's Joel Piper? Worried? "No," he said. No spin on it, just, "no".

He sat there next to Lee Melbourne, both of them in their mandatory camp chairs, lined up toward the back of the tents. Lee was consuming a huge container of pasta. No sauce, nothing, just pasta. "It's the best!" he said, passing a handful to Jake.

Further forward, near the front of the tents, was another line of camp chairs. These were occupied by the girls: Kim and Katelynn Doyle, Analise Kibble, Jodie Louw. I think I saw Jasmine Kibble and Zoe Warrenner. Then girls from other clubs began arriving. Together, they became a sort of mass - hard to tell apart.

Feeling outnumbered, Jake and Lee began uselessly fighting back. "Join Newport!" they said to the visitors, who pouted and laughed at them, pretending not to pay any attention. "This isn't your tent! Your music's no good! Listen to this! This is good music!"

These kids are still growing, still forming their ideas about the world and their place in it. One foot is in childhood, the other is poised, hovering, over something very different. How to make that step?

2021 Aussies

Place: 2nd
Points: 177



BE THE BEST, ENJOY IT THE MOST

BE THE BEST, ENJOY IT THE MOST

ARGH THE SKI GODS!! 1-2-3! INCREDIBLE!

Wait! It hasn't happened yet.

Bailey went out and banged his way into the ski final, Mitch and Jake went out and banged their ways into the board final. Kimmy went out and did the same. Analise and the Doyles swam into that final. So many finals still to come.

Further down the beach, an actual final was soon to start. This was the open men's board rescue, another medal we've never won.

Charlie (board) and Zac (swim) were in it, and whoa. They went CLOSE. Closer than they expected.

Board rescue is a strange, lopsided sort of race. I should know, I've won two of 'em in the old people's division. They don't get any easier, I assure you. If only it were just a question of rescuing someone; it's not. The swimmer has to be fast, the board paddler has to be faster, and together, they have to be the fastest. So many things can go wrong!

Yet this time, none of them did. Zac went out super hard and got there maybe third or fourth. Charlie went out faster than I've ever seen him paddle. Just took off. That south-east trade had just begun to breathe itself across the waters. The pair skittered home on the bumps, and missed gold by five metres.

"I'll take that," Charlie said, meaning the silver. It's a good medal. But now they know they can win it.

So I stumbled off the beach to placate a slightly annoyed employer of mine, thinking, Just you wait, under 17s, this is adult life. As I set off, Trent said, "The doubles." Meaning, the open men's double ski.

How long? "Ah, an hour and a half," he said. "Nah, two."

The time passed quickly. The employer was only partly placated. I switched on the carnival's live feed. And my God, I saw it. I saw the whole amazing thing.

What club has ever, EVER gone one-two-three in the open men's double ski at an Australian championship? I bet no club. Because no club has Trimmy and Jonesy, or Max and Jayke, or Morri and Tobin. No club has two teams who could break away from the pack by the top can and extend their lead across that south-east tradewind line, leave everyone behind, and duel it out for the gold and silver in the way they did. No club has a third team who would give chase like that, just because they'd seen their mates go one-two and were determined to make it three.

BE THE BEST, ENJOY IT THE MOST

No club has Luke Morrison.

There ARE no other ski gods.

Watching them all together after that epic triple header, seeing them in the photos that were swiftly posted on IG and FB, I was struck again by the thought I always have when I hang out with this crew: They might look like big muscly men, they race like animals, but really, they're just incredibly good, gentle humans. They're funny like Jonesy, calm like Max, happy like Jayke, friendly like Tobin, energetic like Trimmy, committed like Morri.



They're just good humans. They're what the under 17s will become.

The Rower's Day

Report by *Michael King*

Lots of racing in the boat area today. Tough work in the morning, rowing back into the sou'wester, but when the wind eventually swung onshore there was a hope of maybe a little help on the way home. Hope was all we got, because it still felt like we were rowing uphill all the way home. The open men 'Hellfish' impressed again, muscling their way into the semis tomorrow. The reserve men, 'Shellfish', also had enough in the legs to comfortably qualify for tomorrow, as did the u23 girls 'Thunder'.

The u19 'Noodlefish' boys saved their best race for last, but missed the cut. The last race of the day was the final of the Lifesaver Relay and it was a pleasure to welcome the rest of the club to our end of the beach. The Thunder girls got us off to a good start, finishing a close third, to set off the rest of the team. Then Zach Morris' swim, Charlie Brooks' paddle and



Trimmy's ski leg were all for the ages, topped off by Mitch Morris screaming along the beach, crossing the line to be immediately swamped by an ecstatic Newport crowd.

A wonderful event when run all together like this afternoon.

For our three remaining crews, it all starts again tomorrow.

BE THE BEST, ENJOY IT THE MOST

Open medal **WINNERS** & point scorers to date

7

Open Champion Lifesaver	Jemma Smith
U17 Ski Relay	Bailey Clues/Jake Morris/Mitch Morris
Open RescueTubeRescue	Olivia Lovell/Jemma Smith/Sascha Taurins/Lizzie Welborn
Open Board Relay	Jackson Borg/Charlie Brooks/Zach Morris
U17 Taplin Relay	Bailey Clues/Jake Morris/Mitch Morris
Open Double Ski	Luke Jones/Mitchell Trim
Lifesaver Relay	Abby Ballesty/Charlie Brooks/Tara Doyle/Claudia Harris/ Michael King/Mitch Morris/Zach Morris/Ella Smith/Mitchell Trim

12

U17 Patrol Competition	Emma Carrol/Travis Cox/Sam Capell/Kai Raffles
Open Surf Team	Emily Doyle/Jemma Smith/Maddie Spencer/Lizzie Welborn
Open Ski Relay	Jemma Smith/Sascha Taurins/Lizzie Welborn
U19 Surf Team	Logan Kaye/Lee Melbourne/Mitch Morris/Zach Morris
Open RescueTubeRescue	Emily Doyle/ Deandra Godoy/Jami Prowse/Maddie Spencer
Open Beach Sprint	Kristie Edwards
U19 RescueTubeRescue	Logan Kaye/Lee Melbourne/Zach Morris/Oscar Smith
Open Mixed Double Ski	Jemma Smith/Mitch Trim
U17 Board Rescue	Jake Morris/Mitch Morris
Open Board Rescue	Charlie Brooks/Zach Morris
Open Belt	Emily Doyle/Hugh McAlpine/Kai Raffles/David Rees/ Lachlan Warrener
Open Double Ski	Max Brooks/Jayke Rees

9

U17 2KM Ocean Swim	Kimberley Doyle
Open 2KM Ocean Swim	Emily Doyle
U19 Champion Lifesaver	James Simmonds
Open Ski Relay	Max Brooks/Jayke Rees/Mitch Trim
Open Board Relay	Jemma Smith/Maddie Spencer/Lizzie Welborn
U17 Surf Team	Bailey Clues/Lee Melbourne/Jake Morris/Mitch Morris
U19 Board Relay	Jake Morris/Mitch Morris/Zach Morris
Open Double Ski	Luke Morrison/greg Tobin
U17 Belt	Glen Borg/David Euers/Analise Kibble/Jodi Louw/Isaac Smith
Open Male Flags	Jake Lynch

TOP 6 FINISHERS

4th

Open Champion Lifesaver	Phoebe Savage
Open Ski Relay	Luke Jones/Luke Morrison/Greg Tobin
Open Board Rescue	Jemma Smith/Lizzie Welborn
Open Male Flags	Blake Drysdale

BE THE BEST, ENJOY IT THE MOST

5th

U19 2KM Ocean Swim

Open 2KM Ocean Swim

Open Patrol Competition

2KM Beach Run

U19 Board Relay

U17 Ski Relay

U17 Board Relay

Logan Kaye

Jami Prowse

Phoebe Savage/Bec Capell/Brendan Capell/Guyren Smith/
Jeremy Paul/Chloe Van Dam

Quentin Reeve

Analise Kibble/Madi Louw/Sascha Taurins

Katelynn Doyle/Kimberley Doyle/Analise Kibble

Bailey Clues/Jake Morris/Mitch Morris

6th

U17 Champion Lifesaver

U19 Surf Team

U17 Surf Team

U19 Mixed First Aid

Open RescueTubeRescue

Kai Raffles

Katelynn Doyle/Kimberley Doyle/Jodi Louw/Madi Louw

Katelynn Doyle/Kimberley Doyle/Analise Kibble/Jodi Louw

Lucinda Bentley/Emma Carrol

Matt Bell/Jackson Borg/Logan Kaye/Greg Tobin

Don't forget our team dinner:

24th April 2019 @ 7pm

Fratelli Fresh

Sunshine Plaza

154-164 Horton Parade

Maroochydore